

Claims 1, 2 and 4 - The Examiner asserts that the language stating that a resistor for limiting a current is located between an element and the input terminal is indefinite. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner, and believes that the Examiner is failing to properly read the language of the claim. Claim 1 clearly states that the resistor is "disposed between an element within [the] voltage control apparatus for lighting said light emitting element, and said input terminal." Applicant submits that this language makes it clear that it is not just "any" element within the system, but an element for lighting the light emitting element. Applicant further submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the "element" referred to in claim 1 is "an element within [the] voltage control apparatus for lighting said light emitting element." *See* claim 1.

In view of the above referenced discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would adequately understand the claim language of claim 1, and would clearly understand what is, and is not, claimed by the recited language. Therefore, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph rejection of claims 1, 2 and 4.

Claim 3 - With regard to claim 3, the Examiner indicates that it is unclear which element is connected to the transistor. Again, Applicant disagrees with the Examiner. Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the claim language as it is written, and that it is clear from the claim language that the "light emitting element is coupled through said ignition switch to a base terminal of an NPN transistor." *See* claim 3. Applicant submits that

this language makes it clear that the light emitting element is coupled to a base terminal of a NPN transistor, through an ignition switch.

Therefore, Applicant, again, asserts that one of ordinary skill in the art would find the claim language clear and would adequately understand the invention claimed, and thus hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph rejection of claim 3.

Claim 5 - With regard to claim 5, the Examiner asserts that the language regarding maintaining one phase of a vehicle generator is unclear. Applicant again disagrees with the Examiner. Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that vehicle generators are generally multi-phase generators and that the recited claim language is directed to maintaining one of those phases. Because one of ordinary skill in the art would find the claim language adequately clear, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph rejection of claim 5.

***35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Claims 1-3, 6 and 7:***

Claims 1-3, 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,266,882 to Morishita in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,687,983 to Beyn. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant notes that in light of the Examiner's position regarding the language in claim 1, it appears that the Examiner has interpreted the claim language to only require a resistor placed between "any" element and the light emitting element, and is using the Morishita reference to disclose this. However, as stated above, Applicant submits that this interpretation of the claim

language is inappropriate and, therefore, the Examiner's reliance on Morishita is misplaced.

Applicant submits that Morishita fails to disclose, teach or suggest that the a resistor is placed between the element for lighting the light emitting element 6 and the input terminal. See Figure 1 of Morishita.

Applicant also notes that this failure in disclosure or teaching of Morishita is not cured by the teachings of the Beyn reference.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claims 1-3, 6 and 7, and hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of these claims.

***35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Claims 4, 5 and 8:***

Claims 4, 5 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morishita in view of Beyn, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,642,548 to Mashino. Because Applicant submits that the arguments above regarding the Morishita reference are persuasive, and because Mashino fails to cure these deficiencies, Applicant submits that these claims are also allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above regarding claims 1-3, 6 and 7. Thus Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of these claims also.

**Conclusion:**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

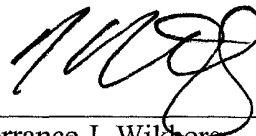
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Application No. 09/688,350

Our Ref.: Q61020  
Art Unit: 2834

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Terrance J. Wikberg  
Registration No. 47,177

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Date: October 10, 2002